Deputy Chief David J. Karnitz

On April 16, 2009, Chief John R. Batiste appointed Assistant Chief David J. Karnitz to the position of Deputy Chief of the Washington State Patrol. Deputy Chief Karnitz will oversee the day-to-day management of the agency's six bureaus; Field Operations; Fire Protection; Forensic Laboratory Services; Investigative Services; Management Services; and Technical Services and Homeland Security operations.

The Washington State Patrol is a statewide general-authority law enforcement agency employing over 2,300 (1,150 sworn and 1,150 professional support staff) personnel with a biennial budget of $369 million.

Karnitz began his career with Washington State Patrol on March 5, 1979, as a Trooper Cadet assigned to Yakima. He graduated with the 58th Trooper Cadet class and was commissioned on June 30, 1980, assigned to Colfax.

On March 4, 1985, he transferred to Hoquiam, and on June 23, 1986, he transferred to the Training Division.

On April 17, 1987, Karnitz was promoted to RCW Sergeant, assigned to Okanogan. He was promoted to the rank of RCW Lieutenant on May 12, 1992, assigned to Tacoma. Karnitz was promoted on July 2, 1996, to the rank of captain, assigned to Yakima.

On April 18, 2005, he was appointed to Staff Assistant Chief of the Investigative Services Bureau, and then on January 1, 2008, transferred to the Technical Services Bureau.

Karnitz was born in Spokane, Washington, and graduated from Immanuel Lutheran High School in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. He attended Immanuel Lutheran College, where he earned his Associate in Arts Degree.